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PENCE DEFENDS RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS

Washington, Sep 29, 2004 - WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Mike Pence today reaffirmed his commitment to 2nd Amendment rights by urging the House to pass the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act. The act seeks to overturn local District of Columbia laws that ban the sale and possession of handguns, ammunition, and certain types of semi-automatic weapons to law-abiding citizens in the District of Columbia. Pence's comments follow:

"I rise in strong support of a measure we will consider today in the Congress authored by my colleague and friend from Indiana, Mark Souder. It is the District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, and there will be much sound and fury throughout the day, and perhaps this evening, on this measure.

"The measure actually overturns local District of Columbia laws that ban the sale and possession of handguns, ammunition, and certain types of semi-automatic weapons to law-abiding citizens in the District of Columbia.

"I believe that guns in the hands of law-abiding Americans actually save lives, and there will be arguments and statistics on both sides of that debate. But I rise, very briefly, to begin the argument. Specifically, I seek to refute what I believe will be the false federalism argument that many will employ today.

"To say that the District of Columbia has the right to pass its own gun laws, even when in so doing, they ban and discriminate against the blood-bought right to keep and bear arms that is enshrined in the Constitution.

"Let us be clear on this point and this definition of federalism: No state has the right to legislate away the blood-bought Constitutional right of every law-abiding American to protect their person, their family, and their liberty."

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